

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

October 31, 2014

Lessons prepared by Amie Sondheim & Justine Light

Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1 Tories Gaining Strength

Do you vote in Canada? Did you vote in your home country? Do you know who the Conservatives are? This first story is about how the Conservatives won some recent elections in Alberta.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words in the story	Related words
	Tories	a) lately close to now
	elections	b) Progressive Conservatives right wing group
	turnaround	c) political group team
	poll	d) break away from separate
	recently	e) reversal switch, or change
	distance	f) vote ballot
	party	g) choosing voting

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Alison Redford – Alberta's last premier, who was very unpopular when she left office

by-elections – elections that are held in between normal elections to replace the empty spots politicians because they have either died or quit their jobs

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Calgary Tories _____ with Jim Prentice.	a) aren't very happy b) are very happy
2. Prentice helped the Tories win _____.	a) half of the by-elections b) all of the by-elections
3. Winning 4 seats is a _____ for the Tories.	a) big change b) total shock
4. People hadn't been _____ the polls until recently.	a) voting for the Tories at b) going to
5. Prentice helped other Tories win their seats and _____.	a) they all helped him three months ago. b) he won his own too.
6. Prentice has distanced himself from _____.	a) both the party and Alison Redford. b) just former premier Redford.

Discussion: What is special about being able to vote for members of your government? Do you think other forms of government work just as well, or better than democracies do? Explain your thoughts on government.

News story #2 Former Politician Has Died

Are you familiar with the recent history of Alberta politics? Do you know who Ralph Klein or Rod Love is? This second story is about the passing of a famous political strategist from Alberta.

Vocabulary: Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Word	Definition
strategist	Someone who makes plans and strategies to do things effectively
duo	Two of something; a pair or couple
draw up	To create or prepare
deliver	To bring to
hand-in hand	To do something together, or works well together
decade	Ten years
confidante	Someone you confide in and share your secrets with
unstoppable	Cannot be stopped

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Chief of staff – Top advisor to and leader of a complex organization

1. The two of them were a great _____. I just loved their music!
2. Often, your husband or your wife is your _____; one you can totally trust.
3. The spreading of disease is _____. As long as people are alive, diseases will spread.
4. Mailmen _____ our mail to our houses, which is very convenient for us.
5. Rod Love was a brilliant _____, as he was so good at planning for Klein.
6. I'm thirty years old, I can't believe I've been alive for three _____.
7. Reading and writing go _____.
8. Give me a minute and I will _____ a plan for how we should organize the house.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true (T)** or **false (F)**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ Ralph Klein is the former Chief of Staff.
2. ____ Albertans are remembering the great political strategist, Rod Love.
3. ____ Klein created the plan and Love would bring the plan to the people.
4. ____ Klein sold Love's ideas to those who would listen.
5. ____ They worked together for a total of a decade.
6. ____ The duo was made up of Love, the strategist and Klein the candidate, and they made a great pair.

Discussion Question: The audio says: "Love was the strategist, Klein the salesman." What does this mean? How are politicians salesmen? What are politicians selling? Who are they selling to?

News story #3 Oil: Supply and Demand

Have you noticed that the price of gas at the gas pump is cheaper lately? Do you ever wonder what makes the price of gas rise and fall? This next story is about what is happening with the price of oil lately and what it means for the investors.

Vocabulary: Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Match words with definitions.

Answers are in the appendix.

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
	analyst	a) a container that holds liquid, such as oil
	production	b) Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
	barrel	c) a person who analyzes and thinks about things carefully
	supply	d) to ask for with urgency
	demand	e) to exchange; to give something and take something in return
	cuts	f) to provide something
	OPEC	g) the act of creating or manufacturing something
	trade	h) to reduce something; to make it smaller

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

World's leading investment banks – the top banks around the world that put money into businesses in order to try and make money from the profit

Goldman Sachs – a multinational investment banking firm

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Who said what?

There are four different people or groups voicing their opinions on what is happening in the oil industry right now. See if you can listen and take notes on what each group or person is saying.

Answers are in the appendix.

A Calgary energy analyst says	One of the world's leading investment banks says	Goldman Sachs says	Judith Dwarkin says

Discussion: How do you view the business of oil production? Do you think the damage that oil production does to the environment is worth the benefits oil brings us?

Language Focus: Infinitives

Recognize an infinitive when you see one: **to see, to run, to write, to cook, to smile**. These are all infinitives. Can you notice the pattern of how they are formed?

Form:

To + verb (base form of the verb) – you never conjugate/change the ending of the verb when you use an infinitive.

Use:

Infinitives are not verbs. So, this means that every sentence that **an infinitive** is in will have at least one other verb. It helps to identify the main verb. **These are ways to use infinitives:**

1. They can be used as **the subject** of the sentence.

For example: **To walk** is good for your health.

2. They can be used as **adjectives**, to complement the noun.

For example: It was my friend's idea **to participate**.

3. They can be used as **adverbs**, to give more information about the verb.

For Example: I tried **to find** my friend.

4. They can also serve to introduce an **adjective**.

For example: It is important **to be** happy.

Here are three statements from the listening this week.

1. Find and highlight the infinitives in each statement
2. Decide how they are being used and underline the words associated with that use

You try!

1. The only way to stop falling oil prices is to slow down production.
2. Prentice has tried to distance himself and the party from former premier Alison Redford.
3. Paired together, they proved to be seemingly unstoppable.

Here are some verbs that commonly go with infinitives. Practice writing your own sentences with them: agree, care, demand, help, learn, need, stop, want, and wish.

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	OCTOBER 31 ST WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Rosa Marchitelli . You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of October 31 st .	0:00
Story 1	Calgary Tories are very happy with their new leader Jim Prentice who helped the Progressive Conservatives win all four by-elections held Monday. It's a big turnaround for the Tories whose poll numbers were very low until recently. It's a result few would have thought possible months ago. Prentice won his own seat and two others in Calgary and one in Edmonton. Prentice has tried to distance himself and the party from former premier Alison Redford.	0:09
Story 2	Many in Alberta politics are remembering one of the great political strategists. Ralph Klein's former chief of staff, Rod Love, died last week. Love would draw up the plans for government, and Ralph Klein would deliver them. Love was the strategist; Klein the salesman. They worked hand in hand for decades and were confidantes, a political duo of candidate and strategist. Paired together, they proved to be seemingly unstoppable.	0:43
Story 3	A Calgary energy analyst says the only way to stop falling oil prices is to slow down production. One of the world's leading investment banks says the price of North American oil will fall to 70-US dollars a barrel by next spring. Goldman Sachs says that's because, there's more oil being supplied than the world demands. Judith Dwarkin is the director of energy research at I-T-G Investment Research in Calgary and says, " if OPEC doesn't make cuts, ... the fact is that prices will be lower next year" West Texas Intermediate oil is trading around 80 dollars a barrel. That's down from more than a hundred dollars as recently as four months ago.	1:19

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words in the story	Related words
b	Tories	a) lately close to now
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Listening:

1. Calgary Tories _____ with Jim Prentice.	a) aren't very happy b) are very happy
2. Prentice helped the Tories win _____.	a) half of the by-elections b) all of the by-elections
3. Winning 4 seats is a _____ for the Tories.	a) big change b) total shock
4. People hadn't been _____ the polls until recently.	a) voting for the Tories at b) going to
5. Prentice helped other Tories win their seats and _____.	a) they all helped him three months ago b) he won his own too
6. Prentice has distanced himself from _____.	a) both the party and Alison Redford b) just former premier Redford

News story 2

Vocabulary:

- The two of them were a great **__duo__**. I just loved their music!
- Often, your husband or your wife is your **__confidante__**; one you can totally trust.
- The spreading of disease is **__unstoppable__**. As long as people are alive, diseases will spread.
- Mail men **__deliver__** our mail to our houses, which is very convenient for us.
- Rod Love was a brilliant **__strategist__**, as he was so good at planning for Klein.
- I'm thirty years old, I can't believe I've been alive for three **__decades__**.
- Reading and writing go **__hand in hand__**.
- Give me a minute and I will **__draw up__** a plan for how we should organize the house.

Listening:

1. F Ralph Klein is the former Chief of Staff.
2. T Albertans are remembering the great political strategist, Rod Love.
3. F Klein created the plan and Love would bring the plan to the people.
4. T Klein sold Love's ideas to those who would listen.
5. F They worked together for a total of a decade.
6. T The duo was made up of Love, the strategist and Klein the candidate, and they made a great pair.

News story 3**Vocabulary:**

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c	analyst	a) a container that holds liquid, such as oil
g	production	b) Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
a	barrel	c) a person who analyzes and thinks about things carefully
f	supply	d) to ask for with urgency
d	demand	e) to exchange; to give something and take something in return
h	cuts	f) to provide something
b	OPEC	g) the act of creating or manufacturing something
e	trade	h) to reduce something; to make it smaller

Listening:

A Calgary energy analyst says	One of the world's leading investment banks says	Goldman Sachs says	Judith Dwarkin says
the only way to stop falling oil prices is to slow down production.	the price of North American oil will fall to 70-US dollars a barrel by next spring.	that's because, there's more oil being supplied than the world demands.	if OPEC doesn't make cuts, ... the fact is that prices will be lower next year" West Texas Intermediate oil is trading around 80 dollars a barrel.

Language focus:

1. The only way **to stop** falling oil prices is **to slow down** production. (subject) and (object of the verb "to be")
2. Prentice has tried **to distance** himself and the party from former premier Alison Redford. (adverb)
3. Paired together, they proved **to be** seemingly unstoppable. (adjective)